

do what they know to do. And that is what we ought to do.

AmeriCorps should be continued for far more than the some 25,000 young people that will be involved in it this year, far more than the 2,000 communities in all 50 States that will be benefited, far more than the many, many tens of thousands of other volunteers, that they will make it possible to work because they will organize them; it should be continued if, for no other reason, that it proves that the American idea is alive and well and can meet the challenges of the 21st century, to restore our values, to strengthen us at the grassroots level. It can be a shining symbol that there is no need for cynicism, no need for defeatism, and no need for tolerance of division in the United States of America. That's why we should continue AmeriCorps.

So I would like to begin this next year of AmeriCorps by asking all of the members who are here and all of those who are with us via satellite in Kansas City to join me in taking the AmeriCorps pledge.

Please stand and repeat after me, if you're not all standing. Stand up—it'll be good for all of us to do it. *[Laughter]* This would be a good pledge for the citizens of the United States:

I will get things done for America, to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps member. And I am going to get things done.

[The AmeriCorps volunteers repeated each line of the pledge after the President.]

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Michelle Johnson Harvey, AmeriCorps member, and Don Doran, principal, Benteen Elementary School.

Statement on Signing the Small Business Lending Enhancement Act of 1995

October 12, 1995

I am pleased to sign into law today S. 895, the "Small Business Lending Enhancement Act of 1995." This Act would, among other things, establish new guarantee levels for guaranteed loan programs of the Small Business Administration (SBA).

S. 895, which the Congress passed at my Administration's urging, contains important elements of the Vice President's National Performance Review proposals and SBA's reinvention proposal. The Act is also consistent with recommendations from this spring's White House Conference on Small Business.

S. 895 reduces the Government's cost of small business financing, thereby enabling even more customers to be served. With the program reforms contained in this Act, SBA will be able to extend up to \$33 million in additional loan guarantees per day with no additional cost to the taxpayer.

I am pleased to sign this measure into law because it reflects my Administration's commitment to customer service and to "doing more with less."

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 12, 1995.

NOTE: S. 895, approved October 12, was assigned Public Law No. 104-36.

Remarks at a Celebration of the Anniversary of the Restoration of Democracy in Haiti

October 12, 1995

Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary General. This marks the second time in 2 days I have been here. I promise I won't come back tomorrow and interrupt your lives. *[Laughter]* Madam Foreign Minister, to the distinguished Prime Minister of St. Kitts, and others who are here who were part of that remarkable coalition that restored democracy to Haiti a year ago. Let me say I was looking out at this crowd tonight, and when my friend